



Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 3

Meeting Date: September 16, 2013
Meeting Location: Joy Rose Center
1000 W. Hively Ave.
Elkhart, IN

Council Members Present: Fay Russell, Regional Manager DCS; Tony Sommer, Director Elkhart County DCS; Michael Carroll, Director Marshall County DCS; Erin Shidler, Director Kosciusko DCS; Amanda Herendeen, Kosciusko DCS; Bill Horton, St. Joseph County DCS, Pam Whisman, Marshall County DCS.

Council Members Absent: Judge Duane Huffer, Kosciusko County Superior Court; Judge Curtis Palmer; Joe Wine, Foster Parent; Magistrate Deborah Domine; Don Phillips, Bashor; James Pheilbush; Scott Filley; Teresa Zornig, Division Manager St. Joseph County DCS; Linda Cioch, Director St. Joseph County; Janet Bohner, Elkhart Probation.

Others In Attendance: Joni Tusing, DCS; Rachel Tobin-Smith, SCAN; Pam Hluchota, YWCA; Jacob Fawley, Lifeline Youth and Family Services; Travis Tusk, Lifeline; CAPS; Bonnie Strycker, Youth Service Bureau; Libby Martin, LSSI; Jeff Bedree, DCS; Leah Plank, CAPS; Mike Marchi; Memorial Epworth Center; Pat Hancock, Center for Positive Change; Candy Yoder, CAPS; Tai Crayton, White's RFS, Inc.; Jean Reed, Dockside; Melissa McWilliams, Lifeline; Amy Rosen, Oaklawn;

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Fay Russell.

1. Welcome/Introductions of Members and Guests.
2. Approval of Minutes. Minutes of 08-19-2013 reviewed. Bill Horton motioned approval of the Minutes. Erin Shidler seconded. Motion carried.
3. Community Partners Update. Rachel Tobin-Smith brought the correct financial information for the current contract time. In July \$186,573 was spent. \$122,000 was spent in Contracted Services. We should be at 8.3%. We are at 10.25 %, so we are running a little high. Flex funds are being capped each month. Some of the \$8,988 is from the previous month that had to be paid. In August we had 190 referrals. We can only take in 63. This is being monitored on a weekly basis. Supervisors have been going out on QA visits with Assessment workers to see how things could be improved. Stats look good. All counties are getting referrals in to us. With the Local Prevention dollars, the money is being used as it is needed.

Q: Now that school is back in session, are there any initiatives for the schools to send in referrals since they have daily contact and may get better cooperation from the family?

A: Have a limit as to how many referrals we can take. If they send us referrals and we are full, then we cannot take them. We are full and don't know if we could take them.

Q: Do these reports reflect the Hotline referrals or are they lumped in to DCS?

A: We do not know the difference. I will have to ask our staff if there is a way to track this.

4. Service Update. Jeff Bedree. Region 3 is completed in implementation for the Child Mental Health Initiative. This initiative is so that families with children with severe mental health needs could get services without going through probation or DCS in order to get those services. Improvements are being made with the Comprehensive-Based Models. Rates have been negotiated and accepted. Trainings for Motivational Interviewing and Trauma-focused CBT's are going through the beginning of next year. It is the hope to have these rates established soon. We have opened two RFP's to add more resources to our Resource Families. These will be closing November 1st.

Q: Do you know where we are with serving the Medicaid kids?

A: If they have Medicaid already then they will be eligible. If they do not, that is where this initiative would kick in.

Q: Are probation clients eligible?

A: No, cannot have an open case with DCS or be on probation. If the probation case can be closed, then they would be eligible.

These services are not geared for every family. The FCM needs to determine if the family could benefit from these services. Staff will need to be educated to know which services to recommend for.

5. Regional Budget Update. Joni Tusing, Regional Financial Manager. We do not have an official budget for the region. It is hard to have a comparison so soon in the fiscal year. For the month of August our total Expenditure was \$3,307,408 with \$1,846,689 spent for Child Welfare, and \$1,460,719 spent for Probation. The highest percentage of growth is in Preservation.

E-invoicing payments are getting done quicker. I am able to pull reports and get data for you if anyone has a specific need.

6. County Updates.

Elkhart—We have two employees from Elkhart County that have been hired for positions at the Hotline in St Joe County. We continue to look at placement with relatives if keeping them in the homes is not the safest place for them. We have been utilizing the Relative Locator, Relative Support Specialist, the ICES Database, and speaking with family members to determine who might be able to assist with the children.

Koskiusko—Relative placement has been working in our county. We have a great staff. We gave them the tools that they need. We have followed the practice model that the family may know best where the children could go. The Judge holds us accountable. If the child is not with relative, the Judge wants to know why.

Marshall—We are also looking at appropriate relative home placement. Our Judge assists us a lot with helping us find family members. When we do have to remove a child, our staff really comes together to help each other. We utilize the children to assist in identifying relatives that are a part of their lives.

St. Joseph—We are working on Relative Placements also. Our Relative Support Specialist is working hard. We have been working hard to make the Child and Family Team Meetings successful for the families that we serve. We have a lot of new workers in St. Joe. We have a new Judge and a new Magistrate. We had a tragedy in our office and are working to support on another thru crisis.

Service Providers and DCS staff all have similar risk. We need to have a rational plan for safety of employees

Service Providers were invited to set up a marketing type of meeting if they wanted to provide staff with information about their services. We will encourage staff to attend. St. Joe and Elkhart are the biggest

counties and where the bulk of staff are, so it makes sense to hold it in one of those. There are many new workers that could benefit.

7. Other Business.

Each county is getting additional clerical staff. Those jobs will be posted on the job bank this week.

Fay has asked for a list of the Magik Reports that she would now be able to share if the information is deemed reliable.

Fay touched on the “Good to Great” Initiatives that were given to the Governor by Director Bonaventura involving Child Support, Retention of Staff, and Trauma-Informed Care.

Fay will be sending out an e-mail talking about the goals of the Biennial Plan that is closing out and the new plan to be submitted in February.

Tony Sommer motioned to adjourn. Adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Next RSC Meeting - Monday, October 21, 2013 at 10:00 a.m., 1000 S Michigan St, South Bend, IN